

Toras Avigdor

Junior

Adapted from
the teachings
of Rav Avigdor
Miller z"l

By: Pinchas
Ben-Ami

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שבועות

The Mitzvos We Don't Do

נתנרב לזכות
הרב אברהם יחזקאל בן הדס שליט"א
וכל יוצאי חלציו

The Mitzvos We Don't Do

Three thousand years ago, the whole Am Yisroel was standing together at Har Sinai – millions of Yidden, all standing together around a mountain.

The mountain was shaking, and the sounds of mighty shofar blasts filled the air. There was thunder and lightning, and on top of the mountain there was a tremendous fire burning, with flames up to the sky. It was beautiful – but it was also very scary. So scary that the Yidden were shaking in fear. The mountain was shaking too. It felt like the world was coming to an end.

But that was only the beginning! Do you know what it means to see a malach? It's not fun. In fact, the possuk (Shoftim 13) says that when Manoach and his wife saw a malach they were so frightened they thought they would die!

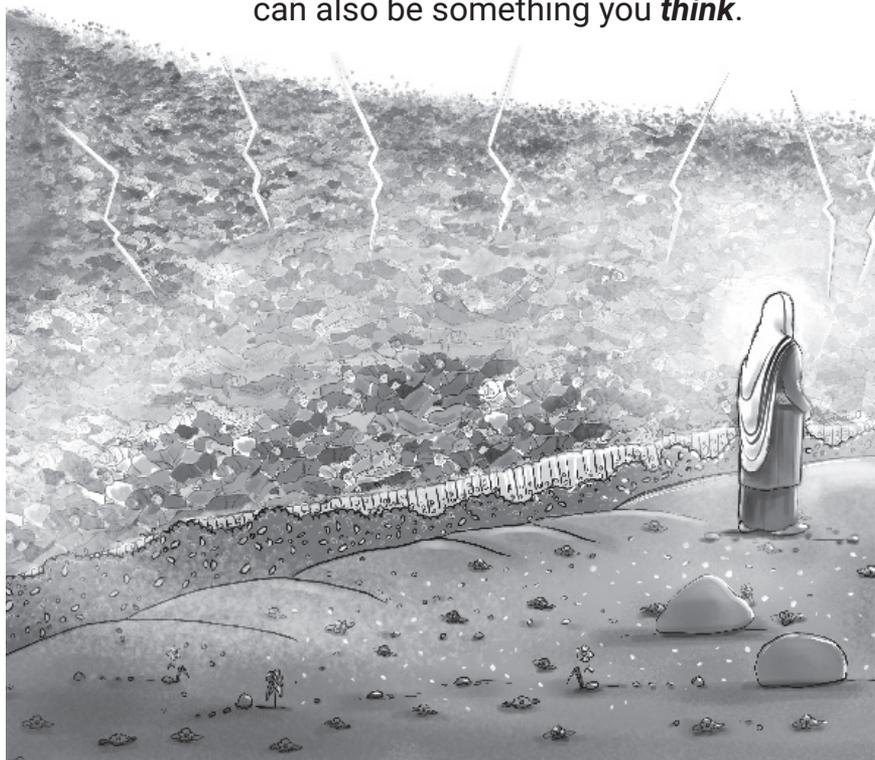
So what do you think would happen if someone saw thousands of malachim? And what if Hashem Himself would come down from Shomayim with thousands of malachim and speak to us?! It's almost too much to imagine, but that's what happened on Shavuos! We actually heard the voice of Hashem saying, "I am Hashem!" Hashem was speaking to us!

It was so exciting, and so scary, that the Yidden were fainting away. They were dying, because it's impossible to hear

Hashem speak and survive. His voice is so powerful that our bodies can't handle it. All around Har Sinai, the Am Yisroel were lying on the ground dead. It was only because Hashem made a techiyas hameisim that they came back to life.

Why am I telling you all this? Because there is a mitzvah in the Torah that we must remember what happened at Har Sinai, that we should think about what happened when Hashem gave us the Torah.

Most people don't understand what this mitzvah means, because we are used to thinking that a mitzvah is something you **do**. Many people don't realize that a mitzvah can also be something you **think**.



Learning Torah – sure, that’s a mitzvah, but just to think about Matan Torah, to try to remember and picture what it was like when Hashem spoke to us, is that really a mitzvah? And the answer is: Yes!

The sefer Chovos Halevavos is all about this idea: It’s a whole sefer all about the many mitzvos that we have to think, not do. Rav Miller once said: “From the time I was a bachur learning in the yeshiva in Slabodka, I never missed a day of learning Chovos Halevavos.” That’s the secret to becoming great. When we think about mitzvos instead of just doing them, we become great – because our minds become Torah minds.

So when Shavuos comes around, it’s not enough to just go to shul to hear the Aseres Hadibros or eat a lot of cheesecake. And it’s not even enough to say, “Today is the day we got the Torah.” We have to spend time thinking about it, picturing it, and trying to feel that experience. What was it like when Hashem spoke to us?!

When we think about Matan Torah, not only are we fulfilling the mitzvah in the Torah of remembering יום אֲשֶׁר עָמַדְתָּ לְפָנַי הַיּוֹם – “the day that you stood in front of Hashem at Har Sinai,” but it helps us turn our minds into Torah minds. And that’s the real Kabbolas Hatorah – to take the mitzvos into your mind and to think about Hashem as much as you can, every day, even when Shavuos is over.

Have a Wonderful Yom Tov!

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